

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 SAM-01 EB-07 /090 W

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R 150421Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9883

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ASEAN, XC, MY

SUBJ: ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING: OPENING STATEMENTS

REF: A. KUALA LUMPUR 2603 (NOTAL) B. KUALA LUMPUR 2594 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: AT OPENING SESSION MAY 13, ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS PREDICTABLY PLEDGED FURTHER EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE REGIONAL GOALS FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COOPERATION, BUT MAIN TOPIC ON EVERYONE'S MIND IS FUTURE ASEAN RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST INDOCHINA. CLEARLY DISTURBED BY RAPID TURN OF EVENTS IN INDOCHINA, FONMINS ADVANCED OWN IDEAS, COMMON THEME OF WHICH IS TO SECURE HANOI AGREEMENT TO SOUTHEAST ASIA ZONE
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OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY. END SUMMARY.

2. NOTING "SEASIA TODAY IS A DIFFERENT PLACE FROM WHAT IT WAS ONLY A FEW SHORT WEEKS AGO," PM RAZAK IN OPENING ADDRESS URGED ASEAN NATIONS NOT TO ENGAGE IN RECRIMINATIONS OVER THE PAST BUT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF "EXCITING POSSIBILITIES" FOR PEACE, FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION IN REGION. HE AVERRED 1971 K.L. DECLARATION OF INTENTION TO ESTABLISH SEASIAN ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY IS MORE RELEVANT IN LIGHT OF RECENT INDOCHINA EVENTS AND ITS "PRACTICAL REALIZATION" IS "MORE URGENT AND NEARER OUR GRASP." THEREFORE, SEASIAN NATIONS SHOULD PURSUE ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL WITH "GREATER VIGOR," BUT NEUTRALIZATION PROPOSAL IS STILL PREMISED ON NATIONAL AND REGIONAL RESILIENCE AND DETERMINATION TO DEFEND AREA AGAINST EXTERNAL ENCROACHMENT.

3. IN LESS THEORETICAL VEIN, GOM INFORMATION AND SPECIAL FUNCTIONS (FOREIGN AFFAIRS) MINISTER TENGKU RITHAUDDEEN, WHO WAS CHAIRMAN OF ASEAN STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PAST YEAR, CALLED FOR SERIOUS EXAMINATION OF ASEAN'S STRUCTURE AND EFFICIENCY IN ORDER TO CREATE STRONG AND VIABLE ORGANIZATION TO "FORGE SOCIO-ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND SOLIDARITY" IN REGION AND TO BE "PRIME MOTIVATOR OF PEACE AND HARMONY." HE CALLED FOR EARLIEST POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT ASEAN SECRETARIAT IN "SPIRIT OF COOPERATIVENESS AND UNDERSTANDING," BEING CAREFUL NOT TO UNDERMINE REGIONAL SOLIDARITY. RITHAUDDEEN SAID ASEAN IS GAINING IN INTERNATIONAL STATURE EVIDENCED BY AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND AID TO ASEAN AND CONSULTATIONS WITH JAPAN ON SYNTHETIC RUBBER PRODUCTION; HE ALSO SAID CANADA HAS OFFERED ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

4. INDONESIAN FONMIN MALIK TOLD DELEGATES NOT TO BE CONTENT WITH REVIEWING ASEAN'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN PAST YEAR, BUT TO REASSESS AND REAFFIRM ASEAN'S PURPOSES AND POTENTIALS IN LIGHT OF FAST-MOVING EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN REGION. HE CONTINUED: "WE WELCOME PEACE IN INDOCHINA JUST AS WE REJOICE IN THE END OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SENSELESS BLOODSHED AND FRATRICIDE. WE WELCOME IT EVEN MORE AS A NECESSARY BEGINNING IF REAL PEACE AND STABLE PROGRESS ARE TO MATERIALIZE IN THE ENTIRE REGION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA." MALIK THEN CALLED FOR "PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE" AND COOPERATION, AS WELL AS NON-INTERFERENCE AND NON-ALIGNMENT, VIS A VIS NEW INDOCHINA GOVTS. HE ALSO SAID GREAT POWERS SHOULD NOT HENCEFORTH FEEL NEED FOR DIRECT MILITARY INTERVENTION OR FOR MUTUAL

RIVALRY TO CONTAIN EACH OTHER. BIG POWER INVOLVEMENT IN SEASIA SHOULD CONSIST OF "EQUALLY PROVIDING ECONOMIC SUPPORT IN ORDER TO SERVE STABILITY AND RESILIENCE OF THE REGION AS A WHOLE." MALIK CONTINUED THAT ASEAN ECONOMIC PROGRESS HAS BEEN "TOO MODEST", THAT RELATIONS WITH OTHER REGIONAL GROUPINGS AND COUNTRIES SUCH AS JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND CANADA SHOULD BE EXPANDED, THAT SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION SHOULD EXTEND BEYOND RELEVANT GOVT AGENCIES IN EACH NATION, AND THAT IT HAS TAKEN TOO LONG (TWO YEARS) TO AGREE ON ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRAL ASEAN SECRETARIAT. HE CONCLUDED THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT EVEN FASTER IN LIGHT OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND THAT ASEAN NATIONS MUST MOVE QUICKLY TO MEET ANY OUTSIDE CHALLENGE.

5. THAI FONMIN CHATCHAI WELCOMED CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND RESTORATION OF PEACE IN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM AND SAID RTG LOOKS FORWARD TO "FRIENDLY AND HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIPS AND FRUITFUL COOPERATION" WITH NEW GOVTS THERE, CITING AS POSITIVE EXAMPLE MINISTERIAL LEVEL THAI MEETINGS WITH LAOS ON ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION. HE POSITED FIVE "REGIONAL NEEDS": NEED FOR SEASIAN NATIONS TO DEPEND ON ONE ANOTHER; NEED TO STRENGTHEN FRIENDSHIP AND RENEW LONG-DORMANT TIES; NEED TO LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE, SECURITY AND HARMONY; NEED TO BE COLLECTIVELY SELF-RELIANT; AND NEED FOR MUTUAL TOLERANCE. CHATCHAI THEN REITERATED CALL FOR MEETING OF ALL SEASIAN STATES FOR DISCUSSION OF MUTUAL PROBLEMS AND TO REMOVE MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND DISPEL SUSPICIONS WHERE THEY EXIST. HE ALSO LAUDED "STEADY PROGRESS" OF ASEAN SENIOR OFFICIALS IN FORMULATING ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE SIGNING OF TREATY OF AMITY AND COOPERATION BY ASEAN AND OTHER NATIONS IN REGION, COMMENDING IN PARTICULAR DRAFT ARTICLE OF TREATY CALLING FOR FREQUENT CLOSE CONSULTATIONS AMONG ALL NATIONS IN REGION. ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, CHATCHAI APPLAUDED ASEAN STUDIES ON LIBERALIZATION OF TRADE IN FOODSTUFFS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPLEMENTARITY AND CALLED FOR MUTUAL SUPPORT IN TIMES OF SHORTAGES OF MAJOR COMMODITIES SUCH AS RICE, PETROLEUM AND FERTILIZER.

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 SAM-01 EB-07 /090 W

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R 150420Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9884

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

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6. SINGAPORE FONMIN RAJARATNAM SAID THAT U.S. IS NOT
WITHDRAWING FROM SEASIA BUT IS ONLY "REASSESSING"
ITS ROLE FOLLOWING VIETNAM DEVELOPMENTS. REFERRING TO
RECENT VISIT TO U.S., RAJA SAID ASEAN
NATIONS MUST INDICATE WHAT U.S. ROLE SHOULD BE, FOR IF
U.S. WITHDRAWS, REGION WOULD BE IN "DIFFICULT POSITION"
DEALING WITH ONLY TWO POWERS, USSR AND CHINA. ON
INDOCHINA, RAJA SAID ASEAN NATIONS SHOULD NOT BE THE
ONLY ONES "WOONG THE NEW REGIMES....THEY SHOULD BE WOONG
US TOO." ACKNOWLEDGING PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF INDOCHINA
VICTORIES ON LOCAL COMMUNIST INSURGENCIES, RAJA DOUBTED
THAT HANOI, KHMER ROUGE AND PATHET LAO WOULD ACTUALLY
BE AGGRESSORS TOWARD ASEAN NATIONS, AND CALLED FOR
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"APPROPRIATE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL POLICIES" TO DEFEAT DOMESTIC COMMUNISTS. CONCLUDING, RAJA URGED ASEAN TO MOBILIZE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES WHICH ARE "MORE POWERFUL AND FAR STRONGER THAN WHAT IS BELIEVE TO BE THE STRENGTH OF THE OTHER SIDE."

7. PHILIPPINE FONMIN ROMULO TOLD ASEAN DELEGATES TO AVOID" CONFRONTATION" WITH NEW INDOCHINA REGIMES, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF VOID CREATED BY "PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL" OF U.S. FROM ASIA. HE CONTINUED THAT PRC MAY REEXAMINE ASSUMPTIONS OF DETENTE WITH THE U.S., PARTICULARLY ITS VIEW THAT U.S. IS COUNTERVAILING FORCE AGAINST USSR IN ASIA. ALSO, JAPAN MAY ESTABLISH OWN NUCLEAR FORCE IN LIGHT OF REEXAMINATION OF ITS DEFENSE POSTURE AND TIES WITH U.S., AND MAY SEEK TO "ACQUIRE PREDOMINANT INFLUENCE" IN REGION. USSR IS LIKELY TO BE TEMPTED TO EXPAND ITS PRESENCE IN ASIA WHICH, ACCORDING TO ROMULO, IS ALREADY EVIDENT IN GROWING SOVIET NAVAL POWER IN REGION. CONTINUING IN THEORETICAL VEIN, ROMULO SAID NEW PATTERNS OF ALIGNMENT MAY EMERGE, E.G., JAPANESE-CHINESE DEFENSE ENTENTE AS COUNTERWEIGHT TO SOVIET UNION. RE PHILIPPINE FOREIGN POLICY, ROMULO SAID ASEAN IS "AN IMPORTANT FACTOR" IN PHILIPPINE SECURITY, GOP WILL "PURSUE VIGOROUSLY THE POLICY OF OPENING DOORS TO ALL SOCIALIST COUNTRIES," GOP "WILL STRIVE FOR CLOSER IDENTIFICATION WITH THE COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD," AND NEW BASIS OF RELATIONS WITH U.S. WILL BE SOUGHT. ON U.S. TIES, ROMULO SAID GOP HAS ASKED FOR SEARCHING REVIEW" OF MUTUAL DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS AT "EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME, PREFERABLY AT POLICY LEVEL." HE SAID GOP WISHES TO REVIEW "IN COMPLETE CANDOR" WHETHER U.S. BASES IN PHILIPPINES STILL SERVE COMMON PURPOSE IN LIGHT OF RESPECTIVE NATIONAL INTERESTS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ASIA. ROMULO HOPED U.S. AND GOP "CAN RESOLVE THE PROBLEM ON MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY TERMS WHILE BUILDING A NEW FOUNDATION FOR CONTINUED FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES." ROMULO SAID THAT ASEAN MEMBERS ARE IN MIDST OF "AGONIZING REAPPRAISAL" OF THEIR ROLES IN WORLD AND CANNOT RISK FATE OF BEING VICTIMS OF "DEADLY VERSION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF MUSICAL CHAIRS" PLAYED BY GREAT POWERS IN SEASIA. ASEAN MUST BE STRENGTHENED IF IT IS TO AVOID SUCH A FATE; FREATEST DANGER, HOWEVER, IS NOT EXTERNAL AGGRESSION BUT "SUBVERSION AND ...SUBTLE FORMS OF INFILTRATION." CONCLUDING, ROMULO CALLED ON ASEAN NATIONS TO PUT ASIDE "GENERATION-OLD SUSPICIONS AND ANTAGONISMS," TO WORK FOR COEXISTENCE BECAUSE THERE IS

NO ALTERNATIVE IN DEALING WITH HANOI, TO RESOLVE DOMESTIC
AND INTRA-ASEAN CONFLICTS, AND "TO SETTLE OUR
DISPUTES WHOLLY AND SOLEY THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS."

8. BEGIN LOU: COMMENT: ASEAN ECONOMIC AND HOUSEKEEPING
MATTERS CLEARLY TOOK BACK SEAT IN OPENING STATEMENTS
BY FOREIGN MINISTERS. FEW CLUES REGARDING FUTURE
POLITICAL EVOLUTION OF ASEAN WERE GIVEN IN THESE
ADDRESSES, HOWEVER, AND MAJOR QUESTIONS REGARDING
IMPLEMENTATION OF ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY,
CONCLUSION OF TREATY AND AMITY AND FRIENDSHIP,
PROCEDURES FOR RESOLVING INTRA-ASEAN DISPUTES,
AND CONCRETE OUTLINES OF ASEAN POLICY TOWARD A
COMMUNIST-DOMINATED INDOCHINA HAVE BEEN LEFT FOR
CLOSED SESSIONS. INFORMAL SOUNDINGS AMONG DELEGATES
AND NEWSMEN TODAY (MAY 14) INDICATE NO STRONG
PATTERN IS EMERGING BUT FINAL COMMUNIQUE AND
PERHAPS INITIALING OF TREATY OF AMITY (REF A) MAY
INDICATE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON ONE OR MORE
FRONTS.
UNDERHILL

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